

REMARKS

In a final Office Action mailed October 16, 2006, the Examiner rejected all claims as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,377,009 to Philipp, either alone or in combination with U.S. Patent No. 6,750,624 to Haag et al. and/or U.S. Publication No. 2002/0101210.

By the present amendment, claims 4, 11 and 12 have been cancelled, independent claim 14 has been amended, and the remaining dependent claims have been amended to properly depend from claim 14.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the interview held February 13, 2007. The amendments and remarks herein generally reflect and summarize the discussion held at the interview.

As discussed at the interview, the cited references do not appear to show or teach a capacitive sensor that includes a film-like support and a multitude of electrodes arranged on one side of the support. The references also fail to teach a system wherein a distinction between a change in ambient conditions and the presence of an obstruction is determined based on whether all or less than all of a plurality of sensors measures a capacitance change.

As discussed at the interview, independent claim 14 has been amended to clarify that the "selection" of the plurality of sensors is "less than all" of the sensors. Additionally, claim 14 has been amended to provide that the sensors can be deformed in all directions for installation.

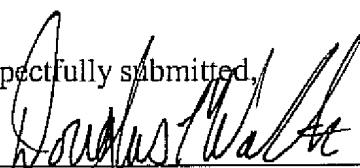
As discussed at the interview, it is believed that claim 14 distinguishes the cited art, as well as other known prior art. As such, claim 14 is in condition for allowance. All other claims depend from claim 14 and are also in condition for allowance therewith.

Any questions should be directed to Applicant's below signed representative.

Dated: February 16, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By


Douglas L. Wathen, Reg. No. 41,369
GIFFORD, KRASS, SPRINKLE et al.
2701 Troy Center Drive, Suite 330
Post Office Box 7021
Troy, Michigan 48007-7021
(734) 913-9300 (734) 913-6007 (Fax)